

# CONFIDENTIAL

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for maintaining software product version tracking in a  
5 client/server computer system environment, the method comprising:  
a) storing a plurality of software product versions within a database;  
b) traversing a plurality of directories of the database to determine  
paths for each of the plurality of software product versions, the traversing  
performed by a server;  
10 c) selecting one of the software product versions for updating, the  
selecting performed by one of a plurality of clients;  
d) editing the one software product version using the one client and  
returning a resulting new software product version to the database;  
e) using the server, updating the directories of the database to  
15 chronologically track the new software product version to ensure the paths for  
each of the plurality of software product versions and the new software  
product version are available to the plurality of clients.

2. The method of claim 1 further including:  
20 executing a server component on the server in order to make the new  
software product version visible to the plurality of clients.

3. The method of claim 1 further including:  
using the server, creating a file containing the paths for each of the  
25 software product versions, the file used by the clients to access to software  
product versions.

CONFIDENTIAL

4. The method of claim 1 further including:  
using the server, maintaining a chronological arrangement of the  
software product versions; and

5 maintaining a tree structure for tracking one or more chronological  
arrangements of the software product versions.

5. The method of claim 4 further including:  
maintaining a plurality of tree structures for a respective plurality of  
10 software product development projects to maintain the software product  
version tracking.

6. The method of claim 4 further including:  
using a graphical user interface of the client to access to tree structure  
15 of the chronological arrangements of the software product versions.

7. The method of claim 1 further including:  
using a graphical user interface of the client to select the one software  
product version for updating.

20

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the server and the plurality of clients  
are communicatively coupled via a local area network.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the server and at least one of the  
25 plurality of clients are communicatively coupled via the Internet.

CONFIDENTIAL

10. A system for maintaining software product version tracking in a client/server computer system environment, the system comprising:

a client-server computer system coupled via a network, the client server computer system configured to execute computer readable code for

5 implementing a method for product version tracking, the method comprising:

a) storing a plurality of software product versions within a database;

10 b) traversing a plurality of directories of the database to determine paths for each of the plurality of software product versions, the traversing performed by a server;

c) selecting one of the software product versions for updating, the selecting performed by one of a plurality of clients;

d) editing the one software product version using the one client and returning a resulting new software product version to the database;

15 e) using the server, updating the directories of the database to chronologically track the new software product version to ensure the paths for each of the plurality of software product versions and the new software product version are available to the plurality of clients.

20 11. The system of claim 10 further including:

executing a server component on the server in order to make the new software product version visible to the plurality of clients.

12. The system of claim 10 further including:

25 using the server, creating a file containing the paths for each of the software product versions, the file used by the clients to access to software product versions.

13. The system of claim 10 further including:  
using the server, maintaining a chronological arrangement of the  
software product versions; and

5 maintaining a tree structure for tracking one or more chronological  
arrangements of the software product versions.

14. The system of claim 13 further including:  
maintaining a plurality of tree structures for a respective plurality of  
10 software product development projects to maintain the software product  
version tracking.

15. The system of claim 13 further including:  
using a graphical user interface of the client to access to tree structure  
15 of the chronological arrangements of the software product versions.

16. The system of claim 10 further including:  
using a graphical user interface of the client to select the one software  
product version for updating.

17. The system of claim 10 wherein the server and the plurality of  
clients are communicatively coupled via a local area network.

18. The system of claim 10 wherein the server and at least one of the  
25 plurality of clients are communicatively coupled via the Internet.

CONFIDENTIAL

19. A computer readable media having thereon computer readable code which when executed in a client server computer system cause the computer system to implement a method for maintaining software product version tracking, the method comprising:

- 5           a) storing a plurality of software product versions within a database;
- b) traversing a plurality of directories of the database to determine paths for each of the plurality of software product versions, the traversing performed by a server;
- c) selecting one of the software product versions for updating, the  
10   selecting performed by one of a plurality of clients;
- d) editing the one software product version using the one client and returning a resulting new software product version to the database;
- e) using the server, updating the directories of the database to  
15   chronologically track the new software product version to ensure the paths for each of the plurality of software product versions and the new software product version are available to the plurality of clients.

20. The computer readable media of claim 19 further including:

- 20   using the server, creating a file containing the paths for each of the software product versions, the file used by the clients to access to software product versions.

21. The computer readable media of claim 19 further including:

- 25   using the server, maintaining a chronological arrangement of the software product versions; and
- maintaining a tree structure for tracking one or more chronological arrangements of the software product versions.

CONFIDENTIAL

22. The computer readable media of claim 21 further including:  
maintaining a plurality of tree structures for a respective plurality of  
software product development projects to maintain the software product  
5 version tracking.

23. The computer readable media of claim 21 further including:  
using a graphical user interface of the client to access to tree structure  
of the chronological arrangements of the software product versions.

10

24. The computer readable media of claim 19 further including:  
using a graphical user interface of the client to select the one software  
product version for updating.

10/26/2001 10:26:00